

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SCCT-02 SY-04 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 H-03 NSC-07 DRC-01 /090 W

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R 031115Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7010

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO LAHORE FROM KARACHI
OCT 2, 1974 REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK SUBJECT: MAJOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY IN MEKTRAN

1. OCTOBER 1 "JANG" REPORTS FROM QUETTA THAT ARMED BANDITS
LOOTED 16 RPT 16 BUSES AND TRUCKS ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY
NEARPYANJGUR, IN NORTH-CENTRAL MEKTRAN DISTRICT, BALUCHISTAN,
APPARENTLY THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE BANDITS REPORTEDLY ROUGHED
UP THE PASSENGERS AND RELIEVED THEM OF CASH AND GOODS WORTH
AN ESTIMATED RS. 2 MILLION (\$200,000). AFTER RAISING
"A PARTICULAR SLOGAN", THE BANDITS DISAPPEARED INTO THE
HILLS. THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ANY CASUALTIES NOR OF WHETHER
THE BUSSES AND TRUCKS WERE TRAVELLING IN CONVOY. NO ARRESTS
REPORTED YET.

2. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT IS NOTEWORTHY PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT
OCCURRED IN MEKTRAN, UP TO NOW A RELATIVELY QUIESCENT DISTRICT
FAIRLY FAR REMOVED FROM THE CENTERS OF DISSIDENT ACTIVITY IN
JHALAWAN AND THE MARRI-BUGTI TRIBAL AGENCY. THE OBJECTIVE MAY
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HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN COMMON THEFT; DACOITY IS FAR FROM

DEAD IN MEKRAN, A MAJOR TRANSIT AREA FOR CONTRABAND.
THAT SUCH A NUMBER OF VEHICLES COULD BE LOOTED OPENLY WOULD SERVE
TO CONFIRM THE LOW OPINION OF THE BALUCHISTAN POLICE VOICED
TO ME BY THE GOVERNOR IN LATE AUGUST AND PERHAPS SIGNALIZED BY
THE ABRUPT REPLACEMENT OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE
(KARACHI 1985).

3. THE TWO MEKRAN SEATS IN THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY WERE CAPTURED
IN 1970 BY NAP CANDIDATES MIR DOST MOHAMMED KUNAR AND SARDAR
ABDUL REHMAN KHAN BALUCH; THE LATTER SERVED AS A MEMBER
OF THE NAP-JUI PROVINCIAL COALITION MINISTRY. CRIMINAL CHARGES
WERE FILED AGAINST BOTH IN MID-1973 DURING AKBAR KHAN BUGTI'S
TENURE AS GOVERNOR. KUNAR WAS CONVICTED AND JAILED; BALUCH IS
"ABSCONDING". THE PPP WON SUBSEQUENT BY-ELECTIONS TO
FILL THE TWO SEATS. MINOR INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN SPORADICALLY
REPORTED FROM MEKRAN SINCE THEN.
TIGER

UNQUOTE.BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: CRIMES, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, MOTOR BUSES, THEFTS, LOOTING
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Draft Date: 03 OCT 1974
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Disposition Authority: CollinP0
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